

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 1-5 and 15-20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration. Claims 2-5, 7-14, 17, 18 and 20 are objected to.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 (Wetchler):

Using Independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites "if the residual amount of the at least one color ink is less than the predetermined standard residual amount, selecting between a normal printing mode . . . and an ink saving printing mode." Thus, the normal printing mode may be selected if the residual amount is less than the predetermined amount.

Column 8, lines 55-67 of the reference disclose that ink usage can be determined a variety of ways (lines 55-59). This portion also discloses that if the colorant imbalance exceeds a threshold amount, an adjustment is made (lines 60-67). However, there is no disclosure that a normal printing mode may be selected. Thus, there is no selection "between" ink saving and normal printing modes.

The Examiner also relies upon column 9, lines 31-41 of the reference as disclosing this feature. However, this portion discloses a balancing of colorants. No selection of a normal mode and ink saving mode is disclosed.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 (Wetchler and Yamamoto):

The above comments with respect to Wetchler apply here. Yamamoto does not overcome the above deficiencies in Wetchler.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

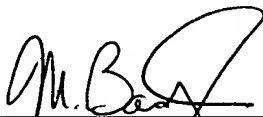
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4-29-05

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